

Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; September 8, 2005; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS

Steven Bowser, USBR

Heather Gordon, SAIC/Corps

Rhea Graham, Pueblo of Sandia

Mark Horner, Corps

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

Charles Lujan

Lesley McWhirter, Corps

William J. Miller, WJM Engineering,
Inc./Corps

Michael Roark, USGS

Zhuping Sheng, TAMU

Marc Sidlow, Corps

Tim J. Ward, UNM

- ❖ Zhuping Sheng was having technical problems with the computer used for his Power Point presentation, so the next item on the agenda was used to open the meeting.
- ❖ Marc Sidow opened the meeting by discussing the URGWOM Phase II testing workshop. The latest version of URGWOM is 5.3.
 - Approximately 22 or 23 people had attended the workshop.
 - A three month time comment and response time period exists, which will end approximately November 14. So far, no major comments or problems with the testing exist.
- ❖ Zhuping Sheng gave a Power Point Presentation on the completion of Phase II model development, and the beginning of Phase III.
 - The Completion Report of Phase II includes:
 - A review of hydrological models;
 - The concepts, schema, and available data used for model development;
 - A data portal.
 - The review of hydrological models revealed that the newest model more closely approximated actuality. However, it was noted from the audience that the newest model incorporates more years of data than the previous model, which prevents their comparability.
 - The data used in the model goes extends from 1999 to 1975; however, due to incompleteness, data was only used for 1979 onwards.
 - The data portal is being enhanced through the creation of FGDC compliant metadata. The portal provides spatial datasets, FGDC compliant metadata, graphics including maps, and links to imagery archives of DEMs and digital orthophotos.
 - The work plan for phase III includes:
 - Temporal and spatial variations in surface and groundwater interactions.
 - Physical model for flood planning.
 - Linking URGWOM with coordinated database.
 - At this point, a concern was raised regarding the desire of the IBWC to use the same model. It could be possible that they decide to stay with their old model, resulting in a different model used for the Rio Grande in Texas.

- Zhuping will distribute copies of this presentation to the Steering Committee by email.
- ❖ Steve Bowser gave an update on the ET Toolbox.
 - Over a year ago, the algorithms for predicting ET were revised, and the GIS coverage was updated from a 1983 version to year 2000. These changes have resulted in better estimates.
 - Currently in the process of defining each reach boundary in relation to the toolbox. The next Tech Team meeting will review reach boundaries so they can be finalized.
 - High resolution land use does not exist south of Elephant Butte, partly due to lack of recently collected aerial photos and partly a result of lack of funds.
- ❖ Bill Miller distributed a QA/QC plan for the Phase II Database and Model Testing Plan, which outlines an update and review of the database.
- ❖ Mike Roark reported on the tech team activities.
 - A question was raised as to how the discontinuing of gages was going to affect the model. The gage in question was mostly recording zeros, so the impact of its removal is considered negligible.
 - Bernardo gage may also be discontinued.
 - Four new gages are proposed: Escondito downstream from San Acacia; two in Albuquerque; one on Highway 380 near San Antonio.
- ❖ Cyndie Abeyta and Mark Horner have been working to establish a continuous agreement between the Corps and the FWS, in collaboration with UNM.
 - Hurricane Katrina may affect purchasing of water quality sampling equipment.
 - QA/QC is working on a plan that mirrors the 2002 water quality assessment for silvery minnows. For example, synoptic monitors would require daily calibration; continuous monitors would be calibrated weekly. The lack of hardware and software QA/QC has resulted in some poor/erroneous water quality data.
 - Data will be stored at the Sevilleta LTER database. Sevilleta LTER is also constructing a delivery system for the data.
 - Examination needs to be done on the necessity of collecting other kinds of water quality data. In addition, more continuous sites are needed, but since they are not telemetrized, the labor cost is prohibitive.
 - Existing, acknowledged problems include the loss of probes and damage to sensors. While working to resolve these problems, it is recognized that regular calibration is a priority.
- ❖ Mark Horner report that the riparian team was still analyzing and responding to comments. The other teams are in good shape. The aim is to publish the public release in a month. However, in the water quality section, a review showed problems with the regression equations. The rewrite to this section may not be completed in time for the public release, so the draft section may include the caveat that parts are still being reworked.
- ❖ The next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting will be held in November.

Technical Team Activities—Mike Roark

Technical Team Activities

September 8, 2005

MODEL TESTING

Past activities

- Prepare the testing models
- Attend the Testing Committee meetings and help plan the testing
- Help with the testing instruction session by giving presentations and helping testers.

Future activities

- Working with the testers to help them complete their testing.
- Help analyze the results of the testing

SW/GW INTERACTION

Past activities

- Several meetings of Technical Team members to develop concepts for new SW/GW functionality and to review plan for groundwater interaction.
- Two meeting with Edie Zagana of CADSWES to help develop needs document
- Developing draft needs document

Future activities

- SW/GW interaction workshop on October 3 & 4, which will bring together experts from around the basin to ensure coordinated effort from both sides of Elephant Butte.
- Work with CADSWES in developing a design document for required changes to or development of methods

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY HYDROLOGIC AND SEDIMENTATION MODELING CONFERENCE

- Several members are preparing papers for the federal interagency conference
- Technical Team members will give presentations at the conference in April.

RULES DEVELOPMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

- Rules documentation completed for the testing. Question were raised about where the rules are applied and where they can be obtained. Currently, the Riverware software must be purchased to have access to the rules.
- Brad is coming to Albuquerque the week of October 3 to work with the Technical Team in clean-up of the rules set and refine target flow calculations

WATERSHED MODELING

- Work on MMS by the technical team is halted for the present.
- Corps of Engineers developing snow-melt runoff model using their CWMS software.